

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Finessa Slater and I am a resident of East Haven, CT and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). I am writing to show my support for sections 23 – 29 of SB 1089 “An Act Concerning Mental Health Services.”

I have provided behavior analytic services to children, families, and school districts in Connecticut for 8 years. I was hired by Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) in 2007 and have maintained my Board Certification since 2005. The team of behavior analysts that I have worked with at ACES over the last 8 years has grown by over 50% due to the high demand of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) practices within the state of CT. ABA is researched based and has shown to be repeatedly effective. ABA has shown to reduce problem behavior in children such as aggression and self-injurious behavior, as well as increase replacement skills including but not limited to increased communication and leisure skills, and allowing students the academic success to participate in mainstream education through direct instruction and motivation/reinforcement plans.

Currently the BCBAs that I work with are not licensed because licensure in the State of CT is not available, yet it is available in 19 other states. It is time for the State of CT to recognize the importance of our profession and regulate our scope and practice through the Department of Health. As well this will alleviate confusion amongst School Districts and families and assure them that they are hiring State regulated Behavior Analysts and allow them access to quality services through such means as Medicaid.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate you considering my support for sections 23-29 of SB1089.

-Finessa Slater, M.A., BCBA (1-08-4057)